

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 CPR-02 SS-20 NSC-07 DRC-01

/081 W

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R 301055Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8465

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 2178

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NP, BT

SUBJECT: NEPALESE REPRESENTATION BHUTANESE CORONATION; REPORTED
VISIT BY FORMER BHUTANESE PRIME MINISTER

REF: (A) A-36, ITEM 12; (B) A-71, JUNE 1972

1. PALACE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT TORAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR FORTH-
COMING BHUTANESE CORONATION WILL BE KING BIRENDRA'S YOUNGEST
BROTHER PRINCE DHIRENDRA (24). WE ARE ALSO RELIABLY INFORMED
THAT FORMER BHUTANESE ACTING PRIME MINISTER AND UNCLE OF KING
JIGME SINGHI WANCHUK, LENDHUP ("LENNIE") DORJE, WHO HAS
RESIDED NEPAL SINCE 1965, LEFT KATHMANDU MAY 15 FOR THIMPHU.

2. COMMENT: (A) THIS WILL BE DHIRENDRA'S FIRST OFFICIAL
FOREIGN ASSIGNMENT. IT, HOWEVER, MAY NOT ENHANCE NEPAL-
BHUTANESE RELATIONS SINCE BHUTANESE WERE REPORTEDLY DESIROUS
THAT BIRENDRA HIMSELF ATTEND CORONATION (REF A).

(B). DORJE'S STATUS IN BHUTANESE AFFAIRS HAS LONG BEEN UNCLEAR.
HE IS PROMINENT PARTICIPANT KATHMANDU JET SET WITH NO VISABLE
MEANS SUPPORT. FOLLOWING JIGME'S ACCESSION TO THRONE IN 1972
HE TOLD US HE WOULD BE CALLED TO BHUTAN TO HELP CONSOLIDATE
REIGN (REF B). SHORTLY THEREAFTER HE TRAVELED TO DELHI WITH
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OSTENSIBLE INTENTION PROCEEDING THIMPHU BUT WAS REPORTEDLY

PREVENTED FROM DOING SO BY GOI. AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, HE
HAS NOT VISITED BHUTAN SINCE 1965.
QUAINTON

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